LIVING TESTIMONIES

Concerning the Death of the Righteous.

OR

The blessed End of *Joseph Featherstone* and *Sarah* his Daughter; Written by *Sarah* his Wife, and *Thomas Browne* her second Husband;

Not unworthy the knowledge of Friends and their Posterity; that all may be incouraged to Live well, that their latter End may be Blessed.

Also something concerning *Charles Wray*, *Grace Browne*, and *Katharine Browne* her Daughter, Writ by *Thomas Browne* the Elder, in *Partney* in the County of *Lincoln*.

All of them being a sweet savour of Life, laid down their Heads in Peace.

Printed by *Andrew Sowle*: And sold at the *Three-Kyes* in *Nags-Head-Court* in *Grace-Church-Street*, 1689.

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Courteous Reader,

THE Ensuing Testimonies are tenderly recommended to thy serious Perusal, with an earnest desire thou may'st Read them in Meekness, and the Fear of God; and if a Parent, wait upon the Lord in his Holy and Heavenly Gift, to receive that Wisdom which is truly profitable to direct thee, and to endue with a right Understanding, and a godly Care and Zeal to Train up thy Child in the Fear of God, and Admonition of the Lord; and not only to Admonish thy Child to that which is Good, and not to follow or delight in the foolish Fashions and vain Dresses of the evil World, but also while under thy care to Feed, Cloth and Provide for, to restrain from those things which are unbecoming the Truth and our holy Profession thereof, and not to lay out and expend thy Substance which God hath made thee a Steward of, to gratifie that mind in thy Child, which thou hast known and felt the Judgment of

the Lord to be executed upon in thy ſelf, becauſe it was not ſubject unto the Law of God, neither indeed can be; and therefore ought not to be given way unto in thy Child, nor comply'd with by thee, leaſt thou become guilty of thy Childs hurt, to the diſhonour of Truth, and thy own Grief; but rather then thus humour thy Child, let the like care be on thee, as was upon our Deceaſed *Friend*, who on his dying-Bed, "*Deſired* "*that his Child ſhould be brought up in the* "*Nurture and Fear of the Lord, and Edu-*"*ted in the Plain and Decent parts or things* "*that belong to a Woman,*" "*But upon a need-*""*leſs Seam, nor any thing Superfluous, not to* ""*lift her Hand to do, for that,* ſaid he, ""*will bring Diſhonour to the bleſſed Truth,* ""*and be a Burden to the Simple-hearted:* Obſerve the Godly Care of this good Man: Oh, that many Parents may be filled with the like Godly Care and zeal for the Education of their tender Off-ſpring.

And now, oh, Curteous *Reader*, if thou art young, and not yet become the Parent of Children, Read in Seriouſneſs, and the Fear of God, the following Teſtimony concerning theſe young Maidens,

dens, who may be truly esteemed as *wise Virgins*, and such that had more regard to the inward then the outward Adorning, whereby they became so Comly, and their Conversation so Commendable and Examplary, that *Sarah Featherstone*, its said, was not one that had only a Love to faithful *Friends*, and their Religious *Meetings*, but also when there, was preserved out of Drowsiness, Sleepiness and Heaviness, (*which over took the foolish Virgins, so that their Lamps went out, and they were unfit to enter with the Bride-Groom*) but she sat in Meetings in a sweet frame of Spirit, and was often tendred in the Meetings, a thing very commendable in Young and Old: She also when she was sent abroad to be Educated, was careful to improve her Time, a thing worthy of Praise and of thy Observation; for with Grief may it be said, there are too many Children, that when their Parents send them abroad to be Educated, and are at great Charge and Expence by reason thereof, they too to much neglect that which their Parents send them forth to Learn, and in Play, Wildness and Idleness squander away

their pretious Time, often talking what Portions they have, or their Parents can give them, and obſerving what this and the other wears, and how this and the other Dreſſes themſelves, and then endeavour to do the like, and thus ſtir up one another to that which is Evil; and ſometimes by giving way to this Evil mind, come to have a proud Look, which is an Abomination to the Lord, and a Lying Tongue, which he hates. Oh, therefore who-ever thou art, which Reads theſe and the following Lines, conſider ſeriouſly theſe things, and remember thou muſt Dye and come to Judgment; and though thou art Young, yet knoweſt not how ſoon thy change may come, and thy Body muſt return to the Duſt, and become Meat for the Worms: Therefore while time laſts improve it, and mind the Grace and good Spirit of God in thy own Heart, hearken and return at the Reproofs of it, that thou may'ſt know and be led in the way of Life, and become a Comfort to thy Parents, and a Companion of them that fear the Lord, and rejoycing to thy Friends, who have no greater joy then to behold their Children walking in the

Truth,

Truth, the which Truth and Spirit of it, if thou wilt love and obey, it will lead thee to make a right improvement of thy time, to be Obedient to thy Parents, and subject to thy Tutors, to be meek and lowly in thy mind, and to be affraid to commit that which is Evil, though in a Secret Corner, or to wear that which is needless or superfluous; for this Truth is that which will teach thee all things, if thou wilt learn of it, thou wilt become more Excellent then thy Neighbours, and wilt not be seduced by the way of the Wicked, nor let thy mind out after their vain and foolish Fashions, nor delight in their evil Practices and proud Dresses, and false Speech, and corrupt Communication, but in the single Language, the plain and decent Dresses and Apparel that the godly of Old were, and now are Adorned in.

September the 26*th* 1689. *John Field.*

There hath something lain as a weight upon my Spirit for sometime, to write this Testimony as followeth, Concerning my dear *Deceased* **Husband** *Joseph Featherstone, for the Righteous shall be had in Everlasting Remembrance.*

AND this I can truly say concerning him, that he was a Man whom the Lord had endued with much Wisdom and Meekness, as his mind came to be retired inward to wait upon the Lord, his Strength was daily renewed; and when the Lord was pleased to reveal his Son in him, then did the Lord wonderfully appear for him, and by a strong Hand brought him out of *Egypt's* Darkness, and from under the Hand of the Enemy

of his Soul, who would not be willing that he ſhould go forth to ſerve the Lord his God. Oh the deep Exerciſe of the Travel of his Soul for Days and Months, when he went bowed down under the weight of his Sins, then they that were his Teachers before, could ſpeak no Peace to his wounded Soul, for they were Phyſitians of no value: Oh the Sence of the Lords great Love to his Travelling Soul, how he brought him through the Wilderneſs, and from off the barren Mountains; and bore up his head above many Temptations and Trials within and without, and ſet his Feet upon a Rock, and eſtabliſhed his goings; ſo that he could call to his Neighbours and Acquaintance to come and taſte how good the Lord is to them that wait upon him; and many a time could ſpeak a Word in ſeaſon to ſuch as were ſeeking the Living amongſt the Dead; and his circumſpect Walking reached the Hearts of many, for he loved Truth in the inward parts, and to do the Will of the Lord was his great delight: He was Convinced of Gods Everlaſting Truth, the Twenty ninth Year of his Age, whom

the

the Lord made Instrumental in his Hand towards my Convincement; he was a true Yoke-fellow indeed, his Company to me was very dear, and my Soul hath often been refreshed in his savoury Life, which hath caused my loss of so dear a Husband, and so true a help-meet to be the greater, but knowing it to be of the Lord, I desire to be submitted to his blessed Will, that he alone may have the Glory of his own Works, for he is worthy who is God blessed for ever. In the time of his Sickness the Lord was pleased to bear him up in much Patience, and he was freely given up to the Will of the Lord; the day after he fell Sick, I sitting by him, he perceiving I was much troubled, he said, *Dear heart, give me up to the Will of the Lord*, for said he, *I can freely give up all*; and when some Friends came to visit him, he Exhorted them to Faithfulness, *And then the Lord would make a Dying-Bed Comfortable to them*; and said, *though he felt much Sickness and Pain upon his Body, yet the Refreshments that he felt from the Lord, made all his Troubles ease*; then he spoke many comfortable Words to me, saying, *How good the Lord had been*

to us in many Exercises and Tryals, and through his great Love bore up our heads above them all; and his Prayers was to the Lord, *that we might be preserved in his holy Fear and undefiled Way, to bear a Testimony to the blessed Truth, to the end of our days:* And then he desired me that his dear Child should be brought up in the Nurture and Fear of the Lord, and Educated in the plain and decent Parts that belongeth to a Woman, but upon a needless Seam, nor any thing superfluous, no not to lift her hand to do, for that said he, *Will bring dishonour to the blessed Truth, and be a Burthen to the simple-Hearted, and draw out the minds of the young ones after Vanity, which thing*, said he, *my Soul hateth.* The day before he was taken away, he seemed to be something restless, I said, dear Heart, thou art Restless; then he with a chearful Countenance said, *Do'st thou not know where the Weary go to Rest*; and said, *my Rest and Fellowship is with the Lord:* Some Friends came to Visit him, who asked how it was with him, he said, *I am well, I feel no Sickness*; and told them, *he was glad to see them, and was much Refreshed in his Spirit*; and ma-

many ſweet Refreſhments from the Lord ran through him, to the great Comfort and Refreſhment of the honeſt-Hearted; then he deſired to be alone, ſaying, *I would ſee if I could get a little Sleep*, and ſo reſted a pretty time; and then I asked him, how he felt himſelf, he ſaid, *I am well bleſſed be the Lord*, and deſired me to be ſatisfied, for he was ſatisfied, and lifting up his Hands, ſaid, *O Lord, thou art the Eternal God*, and ſo fell aſleep in the Lord, where he is gone far above the reach of his Perſecutors, to praiſe the Lord that ſits upon the Throne, and the Lamb for evermore; in the undoubted ſence thereof my Soul doth praiſe and Magnifie the Lord on his behalf, who counted him worthy to ſuffer for his Name ſake, by bearing a faithful Teſtimony againſt the *Hireling-Prieſts*, who like devouring Wolves ſeek to lay Waſte Gods Heritage

And now having ſomewhat eaſed my Spirit, I humbly deſire of the Lord, that he would be pleaſed to bear me up through all my Exerciſes and Tryals, that he may be pleaſed to ſuffer me to be tryed withal; and to endue me with

Wiſdom

Wiſdom and Underſtanding to govern my dear Child and Family in his moſt holy Fear and undefiled Way, to the Praiſe of his moſt holy Name, *Amen*; That when time ſhall be here no more, I may have a Reſting-place with the Lord for evermore.

He departed this Life, the *26th* day of the *9th* Month, 1682. in *Poſtland*, in the Pariſh of *Crowland*, and was Buried the *27th* day in *Friends-Burying-place* in *Crowland*, being Accompanied with a pretty many Friends, Relations and Neighbours.

Poſtland *in the Pariſh of* Crowland, *being the place of my Abode, the 12th of the 3d Month*, 1683.

Sarah Featherſtone.

A brief Relation of the Life and Death of my dear and only Child, *Sarah Featherſtone*, a Maid of the Age of fifteen years wanting one Month; who Departed this Life at *Partney-Mills* in *Lincoln-Shire*, the 17*th* day of the 7*th* Month, 1688.

THere hath a weight lain upon my Spirit for ſome time, to Write this Teſtimony concerning my dear and only Child: *For the Righteous ſhall be had in Everlaſting Remembrance*; and truly it was the Lords great Love to me in giving me this dear Child, which I acknowledge as a great Bleſſing; but that which is chiefly in my Eye, was the Lords great Love to her, who had inclined her Heart to

to hear Wisdoms Voice, which often calleth to the young Ones, *To remember their Creator in the days of their Youth*; and Blessed are they that hear and obey in their measure, and with meek *Moses* chose rather to suffer Afflictions with the *Children of God*, then to enjoy the Pleasures of Sin for a season. And blessed be the Lord for ever, who had inclined her Heart to Love, Serve and Fear him from her tender years; for from a Child she was tender and harmless, in true Submission and Obedience to her Parents, so that I know not that in her young time, that we ever had any just cause to use the Rod, for she was very tender-Hearted, and of a comely Behaviour, kind and courteous to all people, of a meek and quiet Spirit, therefore beloved of most that did know her. Her dear Father Departed this Life when she was about nine years of Age, who desired upon his dying-Bed, 'That his dear *Child* should be brought 'up in the Nurture and Fear of the Lord, 'and be Educated in the plain and decent 'parts that belong to a Woman, but 'upon a needless Seam, nor upon any

thing

'thing Superfluous, no not to lift her 'Hand to do, for that ſaith he, will bring 'Diſhonour to the bleſſed Truth, and be 'a burthen to the ſimple-Hearted, and 'draw out the minds of the young Ones 'after Vanity, which thing, ſaith he, my *Soul hateth*; and his Breathings was to the Lord, that we might be preſerved in his moſt holy Fear, and undefiled Way to the end of our days; and bleſſed be the Lord for ever, who giveth Underſtanding and Wiſdom to them that fear him, and is a ſure Help in the time of Trouble to them that wait upon him; and in this my great Exerciſe in parting with ſo dear and tender a Husband, and ſo true a Help-meet; my dear Child was a great Comfort and Bleſſing unto me, and was very loving and tender over me, ſurpaſſing moſt of her equals that I knew of; & as ſhe did grow up in years, was a good Example in our Family, for her harmleſs Life and loving Behaviour appeared to the World what Stock ſhe was of, but more eſpecially her dear and tender Love to faithful Friends, of which ſhe ever had a good eſteem, and would mind me often of the Want of poor Friends and others,

and

And she her self would be helpful in what she had of her own, when need required; for her Life and Delight was in doing good, and in that she reached the better part in all, and from a Child she did take great delight in going to Meetings, and was much preserved out of heaviness, or having her eye abroad, but sitting in a sweet frame of Spirit, and would often be tendred in a Meeting, which hath often refreshed my heart in the great Love of the Lord, and to him be the Glory and Honour over all his own Works for evermore, *Amen* saith my Soul.

And when I Married the second time, the Innocency of my dear Child did much appear in her Tenderness and Obedience to us her Parents, and her love to all she came amongst, for her Life was in Peace, and could not abide Discord should have place in any: And when she went abroad to be Educated, she would be very careful in improving her time, and was a good Example where she went, amongst Friends and others, and hath left a good savour behind her, and her removal hath tendred the hearts of many that did know her; and when my dear

Husband was taken to Priſon from me and his tender Family, ſhe was a true Simpathizer with me, many times willing to take part with me in my Exerciſes, for ſhe was very dear and tender over me, willing to be governed by me, and to take up the croſs to her own will in any thing I could not allow of for her to wear or do; and her dear Fathers dying Words did take deep impreſſion upon her heart, and though Temptations ſometimes did lie near, yet through the Lords great Love to her, her heart was kept low, and ſhe with *Mary* choſe the better part, which ſhall never be taken from her; ſo that I am ſatisfied that her Life was not in thoſe periſhing things; in which my heart is often refreſhed and comforted, and the remembrance of her is made ſweet to me; for through the Lords great Love to her, I know not any that can charge her with any wrong done to them, either by word or deed, for her life and delight was in Innocency and Love, adorned with Meekneſs. Oh, the conſideration of my great loſs of ſo dear a Child now in my old Age, hath cauſed me ſometimes to ſay in my heart

If *David* said of *Absolom*, *would God I had dyed for thee, O* Absolom *my Son*! surely I have far more cause then *David* had, I having no more of my own to be a Comfort to me, (this being the last of Ten, Nine of them were Buried before her Father) whose old Exercise the Lord is pleased to renew, but when I consider of Eternity, and the Joy that they are entred into, and how good the Lord hath been to me in the days of my Afflictions, and hath born up my head above all my Sorrows, and that they are taken away from the evil to come, in this I am stayed, believing that my loss is their everlasting gain, and that I shall go to them as I in faithfulness abide.

In the seventh Month on the ninth day, about the eleventh hour of the night, it pleased the Lord to visit my dear Child with this Sickness whereon she dyed, and when my maid came and told me my Child was taken Sick, my heart was much troubled, and it seised upon me very deeply, that my dear Child would be taken from me; and when I came at my Child she did lie in a sweet frame of Spirit, under a great weight of Sick-

neſs, and when I had been with her ſome time, ſhe told me, *ſhe thought ſhe ſhould be taken from me*, which cauſed my Exerciſe every way to be the greater, but to the Will of the Lord I was brought who gave me her, and he alone was worthy to diſpoſe of her as he pleaſeth; and ſo my dear Child did lie in a ſweet frame of Spirit, often breathing to the Lord to bear her up above all her troubles, and did ſpeak little to us, but her weakneſs increaſed daily upon her, and much pain, which this dear Babe endured with much patience; and when we would have ſent for a *Doctor*, ſhe would not, but ſaid, *ſhe was freely given up to the Will of the Lord, whether to live or dye*; and ſaid, *dear Mother, give me ſuch things as thou thinkeſt convenient for me, that I am able to take, for I am weak*; and ſaid, *dear Mother, it hath been laid before me ſometime, that I was not of a long Life, and if this be the time of my Change I am content*; and ſo did lie ſtill, not ſeeming to be concerned at any thing, but keeping her mind inward, often breathing to the Lord to bear her up above her weakneſs, and to be her ſupport to the end of her days;

my

my heart would often be bowed down and tendred when I did ſee her under the great weight of her Sickneſs, at which ſhe would be troubled; and ſay, *dear Mother, thy dear and tender love to me hath been very great, and in that Love I deſire we may reſt, freely given up to the Will of the Lord, for the Lord may not ſee it meet to truſt me in this wicked World any longer*; and then ſhe ſaid, *dear Mother, who would deſire to live in this abominable wicked World any longer? Oh, the abominable Pride of this wicked World; and there is ſome amongſt us, which can take liberty to faſhion themſelves in many things like unto the World, both in their Habit, and other needleſs things; Oh, but the Chriſtian Life is another thing; this is not the adorning we are to put on, for if the Righteous ſcarcely be ſaved, where ſhall the Wicked and Ungodly appear?* then ſhe did lie ſtill for ſome time whilſt the violence of the Feaver troubled her much; and then ſhe ſaid, *Ah, my dear Mother, in all my Sickneſs that I have had, I never felt the like I think, but I hope the Lord will be pleaſed to bear me up above all my troubles to the end of my days; Ah, my dear Father, never ſo ſick in*

my Life; *Oh, ſick at my heart*, which often tendred our hearts, to ſee our dear Child paſs through theſe great troubles at ſome times; and then ſhe would ſay, *Oh Lord in mercy remember me, and bear me up above all my Afflictions, for my heart truſteth in thee*; I ſaid, my dear Child, if the Lord ſhould be pleaſed to take thee from me, where haſt thou a deſire to be Buried, wilt thou be Buried by thy dear Father, in Friends Burying-place, in *Crowland* where we came from? ſhe ſaid, *I have ſome thoughts formerly to have been Buried by my dear Father, but conſidering the greatneſs of the Journey, and ſo many Buried near him, I am ſatisfied, I leave it to thee and my Father*; I ſaid, my dear Child, art thou willing to be Buried in our Burying-place, where I hope to be Buried by thee; ſhe ſaid, *dear Mother, Bury me where thou and my Father pleaſeth, I leave it to you, its no matter how many Miles diſtance theſe Bodies lies, our Souls ſhall one day rejoyce together*; then I asked her, what ſhe would have diſpoſed of, of that which was hers, ſhe ſaid, *I would have my poor Relations have ſomething, and poor Friends Children where we came from*,

what

what thee and my Father pleaſeth, I leave it to you, for my Father is a good Man, and hath been very tender over me, and my Love to him hath been very dear; and then ſhe ſaid, *dear Mother, do not trouble me with any thing, but let us be ſubmitted to the Will of the Lord in all things, do not ſpeak to me, nor give me any thing without I deſire it*; and ſo lay ſtill in a ſweet frame of Spirit, and with as ſweet a Countenance, and as chearful as if ſhe had no ſuch Weakneſs upon her, only ſometimes a great trouble in her head, which the Lord was pleaſed to bear her up in much patience to paſs through, not a diſcontented word was heard to paſs from her, but true Contentedneſs in much Patience, often ſaying, *Ah, my dear and heavenly Father come away, come away, for my heart truſteth in thee:* ſome time before ſhe departed her Speech failed her, after which a ſweet harmony often ran through her, often lifting up her Hands with a very chearful Countenence, and ſo, ſhe fell a ſleep in the Lord; who I then felt a ſtay to my mind, living Praiſes to his moſt holy and powerful Name, who is a God of endleſs Mercies; my Spirit was much comforted in the Lord in the behalf

of my dear Child in the time of her Sickneſs, who endued her with much patience, and wonderfully bore her up above all her Sickneſs and Pain which was upon her Body, at ſometimes not knowing where to lay her Head to have a little eaſe, which ſhe through the great love of the Lord was born up in much patience to paſs through, in true ſubmiſſion to his bleſſed Will, and I do believe is at reſt with God her Maker, being aſcended above all her Sorrows and Troubles, to praiſe the Lord that ſits upon the Throne, and the Lamb for evermore; in the undoubted ſence of which my Soul doth Praiſe and Magnifie the Lord on her behalf, and indeed the ſame doth outballance the great loſs I have of her as to the outward, well knowing my Loſs is her everlaſting Gain; and deſiring that I may be ſubject to the Will of the Lord, in what he may be pleaſed to try me withal, and that he may have the Glory of his own Works, for he is worthy who gave me her, and now hath taken her away, Bleſſed and Praiſed be his moſt holy Name for ever.

Partney-Mills the place of my abode the 20*th* of the 12*th* Month, 1689.

Sarah Brown
Her Mother.

A POSTSCRIPT.

SInce I writ this Teſtimony concerning my dear Child, there hath often freſh ſprings of the Lords great Love concerning her aroſe in my Heart which I had omitted my Duty in; when this Child was in the eleventh year of her age, it pleaſed the Lord to ſuffer Perſecution to come upon us (for the tryal of our Faith) for Meeting together and Worſhiping God as he requires, that is in Spirit and in Truth; we being at a Meeting about eight Miles from our outward Dwelling, the Meeting being ended, and Friends ready to depart, ſome in the yard, ſome in the high-way, comes two Informers after a very rude manner, calling of us Rogues and Whores, and Swearing deſperately to many untruths, my Husband reproved one of them (called *Chipſam*) for Swearing

Swearing, he was very angry, and held up his Stick, and ſaid, *He would break his Head, did he tell him, he was the Kings Officer.* [Obſerve, the ſaid *Chipſam* was not long after carried to *Linclon* Goal for Debt, and their dyed, and was there buried after a very mean manner in the Caſtle yard, *&c.*] But before the Meeting fell to be there again by courſe, which was a Month, (they had made much ſpoil of Friends Goods) it pleaſed the Lord to viſit my dear Husband with much Weakneſs, ſo that we could not go to the Meeting; but my dear Child having a great deſire to go again with her Brothers, we wear freely willing, and they had a peaceable Meeting, and Friends ready to depart as before, came the ſame Informers as rude or worſe then before, and within a few days Levied my Husbands Goods again upon the account of one of his Sons, but ſhe being under Age, they could take nothing from her Father in Law upon her account, at which ſhe ſeemed to be troubled, (ſhe having a conſiderable Portion in his hand) and ſaid, *If they be ſuffered to take all that my Father hath, he ſhall not want to give up to*

ſerve

ſerve the Lord ſo long as I have any thing, (and would ſometimes ſay to me, *I do believe I ſhall never want any good thing which the Lord ſees convenient for me*) in which ſhe manifeſted her Love to him upon her dying Bed, as it is fully declared in the fore-going Teſtimony; ſo having eaſed my Spirit, and diſcharged my Duty which I did owe, I deſire to reſt in Peace with the Lord, and in Love to his Truth and People, to the end of my days and time here in this mortal World, ſo that when time here will be no more, I may lay down my Head in Peace, as my dear Child hath done; and then as ſhe ſaid upon her dying Bed, *Our Souls ſhall rejoyce together.*

Written at *Partney Mills* the 11*th* of the 3*d* Month, 1689. by

Sarah Brown.

Thomas

Thomas Brown his Teſtimony concerning his dear Daughter-in-Law *Sarah Featherſtone.*

THis Teſtimony I have to bear concerning my dear Friend and Relation *Sarah Featherſtone*, firſt let me ſay ſomething of her outward Abilities; ſhe was Born of honeſt Parents, and Educated in the plain and decent parts, her dear Mother thought convenient, as Sowing, Kniting, Reading, Writing, &c. In which ſhe exceeded moſt of her equals, ſhe was Womanly about Buſineſs, and what ſhe did ſhe did it with all her might; ſhe was of a ſingular good nature, and of a comely, chearful, quiet, modeſt Countenance, ripe Wit, quick of Apprehenſion, mild and loving Behaviour to all, and eſpecially to Friends, but more eſpecially to them that were poor; at Monthly Meetings when Women

men Friends had Contributions for the ſervice of Truth, this dear Child would freely throw in her Mite; a poor Widow Friend uſe to come to our Houſe, when ſhe went away, if this dear Child did not ſee her, ſhe would ſometimes run after her, (not like *Gehazi*) and give her ſomething ſhe had of her own, as ſometimes half a dozen Eggs, which ſhewed a tender regard ſhe had to the Poor; her dear Father dyed when ſhe was about nine years old, and after a convenient time her dear Mother became my Wife, ſo I had a certain knowledge of her for about ſix years, in which time I cannot remember that ſhe ever gave me one angry word, but was as loving and tender to me as though ſhe had been my own Child; I was carried to Priſon for bearing my Teſtimony againſt Tythes, and there the Lord was pleaſed to viſit me with Sickneſs and other great Troubles, in which time this dear Child came ſeveral times to viſit me, though the Journey was long and difficult ſometimes, but her dear and tender Love to me out-ballanced it all. This dear Child ever ſince I did know her, had a great deſire to go to

Friends

Friends Meetings; I never ſee her in the leaſt concerned in ſleep or heavineſs, but when I looked upon her I found her in a ſober and weighty frame of Spirit, which often cauſed my Heart to rejoyce, and the remembrance of her is very ſweet to me at this time. When the Lord was pleaſed to viſit her with this Sickneſs whereon ſhe dyed, which was in the fifteenth year of her Age, ſhe bore it with great Patience, conſidering the violence of the Diſtemper (it was a very high Feaver) of which ſhe lay juſt a Week, in which time ſhe would often breath unto the Lord, and ſay, *Ah Lord help me*; and ſay, *Ah dear Father, what muſt I do? Ah, dear Mother, what muſt I do; never ſo ſick in all my Life?* we tenderly exhorted her to keep her mind ſtayed upon the Lord, then ſhe would lie ſtill a pretty while, whil'ſt the violence of the Diſtemper ſorely troubled her, then ſhe would cry out as before, and ſay, *Ah Lord help me*; and ſeveral times did lift up her hands and ſay, *Lord have mercy upon me, Ah Lord help me*; thus this patient innocent Lamb finiſhed her Teſtimony in a good day, and I do verily believe is at

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rest with the Lord for evermore; this dear Babe, which was the only Child of her tender Mother, Departed this Life the seventeenth day of the seventh Month 1688. about midnight, and was honourably Buried the twentieth day following at *Tumby-Wood* side, in the Parish of *Kirkby* upon the Bain, in *Friends Buring-Place*, being accompanied with pretty many *Friends*, *Relations* and *Neighbours* unto the said place, where there was gathered together a pretty many *Friends* and *Neighbours*, where we had a good Meeting held by our very dear and well-beloved Friend *John Whitehead*, who very tenderly accompanied us thither, where we were livingly refreshed together, for there was Milk for Babes, and Meat for them of riper Age, with living Testimonies concerning the sober Life and harmeless Conversation of this innocent Child, by our dear Friend *John Whitehead* (who had certain knowledge of her) she being sometimes before Tabled at his House) and *William Birks* likewise, she having been at his House a pretty time, a little before she fell Sick, was constrained to

bring

bring in his publick Teſtimony concerning this dear Child, all which greatly refreſhed and comforted us her Relations, and was of good ſervice to the whole Meeting, and may be a ſweet ſavour to Generations to come; much more I might ſay concerning this dear Child as to her ſober and loving Behaviour to all; her comlineſs in her Apparel, *&c.* (who like meek *Moſes*) choſe rather to ſuffer Afflictions with the diſpiſed People of God in ſcorn called *Quakers*, then to enjoy the pleaſures of Sin for a ſeaſon, and did truly (I believe) remember her Creator in the days of her youth; this is Written for this and Generations to come, to ſtand upon Record, that young People may conſider their latter end, and whilſt they have time prize it; Written in love to the Lord, his Truth and People, having had a weight upon my Spirit for ſome Months, and now having eaſed my mind, and done my Duty which I did owe, I deſire to reſt in Peace; And if I in this, or at any other time, have ſaid or done any thing that may tend to Gods Glory, or be ſerviceable to

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any; my real desire is, that he alone may have the Glory, Honour and the Praise, for he alone is worthy, not only at this time but henceforth and for evermore; *Amen* saith my Soul.

Partney-Mills the 4*th* day of the 11*th* Month, 1688, &c.

Thomas Brown,
Which was her Father in Law.

C Some

Some Teſtimonies, Concerning *Charles Wray*, *Grace Brown* and *Katharine Brown* her Daughter, Writ by *Thomas Brown* the Elder, in *Partney* in the County of *Lincoln*; who all dyed in the Faith, and left a ſweet ſavour behind them; the ſaid *Charles Wray* having received a heavenly Gift, which he exerciſed to Gods glory, and the refreſhment of his People.

SOmething lies weightily upon my mind, and hath done for ſeveral Months, to Write as a Teſtimony concerning our dear Friend *Charles Wray*, being one that was very well acquainted with

with him for several years, I thought it my Duty to mention something concerning his tender care over the Church of Christ while amongst us; he was taken from us in the flower of his Years, the Lord was pleased to take him away (as he hath done many honest *Friends* before and since) from the evil to come, he was Servant to me about half a year, (and Tenant to me about twelve years,) in which time he was very serviceable to me and my dear Wife as to our Convincements, not only by his Words, but by his wise Walking; he met with great Exercise in his time, but the Lord was pleased to carry him through it all, and make him instrumental in his Hand, to the strengthning of the weak, for the Lord was pleased to open his Mouth to declare of his great love to Mankind, in which service was his chief delight; towards the latter end of his time the Lord was pleased to visit him with weakness of Body, so that he lay in Bed some Weeks, in which time I went several times to visit him, and was very much refreshed together, for the Presence of the Lord did attend him; In his Weakness he was

very Comfortable both to *Friends* and others, for he could ſpeak a Word in ſeaſon to moſt Conditions; the Lord was pleaſed in the time of his Weakneſs to ſend two of his Meſſengers amongſt us, and he having a great deſire to ſee them, they with ſome *Friends* went one Evening to viſit him, and we had a heavenly Meeting together, for the Power and Preſence of the Lord was plentifully manifeſted amongſt us, and our Weak Brother, whom I am ſpeaking of, was at that time made Strong, to declare of the Goodneſs of the Lord, and to praiſe his moſt holy Name, to the great comfort and refreſhment of the Faithful; he often deſired of the Lord that he would be pleaſed to endue him with a good Underſtanding to the end of his days, and lay no more upon him then he would give him Patience to bear, all which the Lord (in his great Love and Mercy) was pleaſed to anſwer, Praiſes to his moſt holy and powerful Name for evermore, *Amen* ſaith my Soul; for he did ſpeak ſenſible Words a little before he departed, and was born up with much Patience all the time

of his Weakneſs; he ſaid to a *Friend* a little before his Death, *That the Candle did burn dim*, and preſently departed without either Sob or Groan that was heard; he remembred his Creator in his young time, and made his peace with God whil'ſt here, and now is gone to receive the Fruits of his Labours, and to reſt with the Lord for evermore; ſo hoping I have done my Duty which I did owe, and eaſed my Spirit, I deſire to reſt in peace with the Lord in whom is my chief delight.

Written in *Partney* the Tenth day of the Eleventh Month, 1682.

By *Thomas Brown* the Elder.

I felt a weight laid upon me to Write this Teſtimony concerning my dear and truely loving Wife *Grace Brown* whom the Lord hath been pleaſed to take to himſelf.

THis I can ſay, ſhe had an honeſt deſire after the Lord in the Summer of her days, as I may ſay early, when I had little in my mind that was good, ſhe did often breath unto the Lord for me, and my dear Child *Elizabeth* likewiſe; (who was a Loving, Tender and Obedient Child to us both, whom the Lord hath been pleaſed to take to himſelf likewiſe, about a eleven days before her dear Mother) and he was pleaſed to hear their Cries and Tears, and change my mind to that which was good and acceptable to himſelf, Praiſes

to

to his Powerful Name for evermore, *Amen* saith my Soul.

We were both Convinced of Gods precious Truth about the year 1659. Our dear Friends *John Whitehead* and *Charles Wray* were very tender over us, being chief Instruments in the hand of the Lord towards our Convincement, &c. she was a true, faithful and loving Wife to me, a true yoke-Fellow, a help-Meet indeed, Zealous for God and his Truth, which was very precious to her, which she delighted in more then any thing in this World; she was freely given up to the Will of the Lord, and bore things with great Patience, to the admiration of some in the time of my Confinement in *Lincoln-Castle*, where I was thrown in by a Hireling-Priest for hearing my Testimony against Tythes; whom she bore a faithful Testimony against (when he sent his Wife to demand Tythes, when I was in Prison for not paying the same) and said, *She did believe that Tythes was not due according to the Law of God now in this Gospel day*; she was made willing to part with me at that time, though I was very dear unto her

her as a Husband could be to a Wife, but it was that recompence of Reward which she had an eye unto, and was made willing to suffer for, that now through Mercy she hath obtained by Faith; she took great delight in going to Meetings, and entertaining honest *Friends*; in the latter end of our time (I speak it to the Praise of our God who was so good unto us) several times as we lay in Bed together with broken and contrite Hearts, we did earnestly desire of the Lord that he would be pleased to give us of his Power and Spirit, that we might spend that little time that was yet behind, in his most holy Fear and undefiled Way, to the Glory and Praise of his Powerful Name; we lived in true Love together, her Company was very pleasant to me, and I took more delight in it, then in any thing in this World, she said mine was so to her; about three or four Weeks before her Death she did Write these following Words, *viz. It is the real desire of my Heart to walk humbly before the Lord, for his Love hath engaged my Heart unto himself*; she was one of few Words, (ready to hear, slow to speak)

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in her Health and in her Sickness; and so Departed this life like a harmeless innocent Lamb, as though she had been a sleep, so good was the Lord unto her at that time. Praised be his powerful Name for ever and for evermore. *Amen* saith my Soul; much more I might say concerning her faithful Walking, and tender Care over her Children, to bring them up in the Fear of the Lord, &c.

She Departed this Life the Thirty first day of the Tenth Month, at *Farney-Mills* in *Lincoln-Shire*, in the year 1682. about the Forty eight year of her Age; she lived with me about Thirty years, we had eight Children together, five of them dyed before her; I Buried her decently, and according to good Order practised amongst us, the second day of the eleventh Month, and in the year aforesaid, (being accompanied with a pretty many Friends and Relations) at *Tumby-Wood-side*, in the Parish of *Kirkby* on the Baine, in *Friends Burying-Place*; and so having somewhat eased my Spirit, I humbly desire of the Lord that he would be pleased to endue me with his Power and Wisdom, to Govern my Children

and

and Family in his moſt holy Fear, and undefiled Way; to the Glory of his moſt holy Name, *Amen*; ſo that when I am here in this World will be no more, I may lay down my Head in Peace, as my dear Wife hath done, Praiſes to the Lord over all for ever and for evermore, *Amen* ſaith my Soul.

Written in great tenderneſs of Spirit, by a Lover of Peace and Truth, the Twenty fourth day of the Eleventh Month, 1682, at *Farmer Mills*, being the place of my outward Habitation.

Thomas Brown
The Elder.

The Name of the Righteous ſhall be had in Everlaſting Remembrance.

This Teſtimony I have to bear concerning *Katharine Brown* my dear Child, it hath remained as a weight upon my mind for ſeveral days to write to this effect.

IT was the care of ſome in days paſt, to keep in remembrance the Words and Works which ſprang from the bleſſed Power of God; and one ſaid, *The Righteous ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance*, and ſaid, *The Name of the Righteous is precious*, &c. This Child, that I am ſpeaking of, was from her Childhood very deſirous to go to *Friends Meetings*, inſomuch as one time it was with me to examine her what ſhe went for, ſhe very tenderly gave me this anſwer, *To wait upon the Lord*, it was not diſtance of Way, nor difficulteſs of Weather, that did hinder this Child from going to Meetings, and though ſhe was up early, and the

the Journey pretty far, five, seven or eight Miles, and went a foot sometimes, yet this Child was never the least concerned in sleep or heavineſs that I did perceive, for always when I looked upon her, I found her in a ſolid, ſober and weighty frame of Spirit, which hath cauſed my Heart many a time to rejoyce in the Lord on her behalf; at the time called *Chriſtmaſs*, ſhe went to a Neighbours Houſe, they having pretty many Children, and they were playing at Cards, this Child ſat her down by the Fire-ſide, where the Woman of the Houſe was, and ſaid, *Had not thy Children better be exerciſed in Reading*, &c. the Woman ſaid, ſhe thought they did no harme, but before this Child was gotten half way home, which was about half a quarter of a Mile, theſe Children fell out as they were at their Game, and were ready to fight, then the Woman remembred the Childs Words, and confeſſed to the truth of them; this Woman came to viſit this Child in the time of her ſickneſs, and told us this Paſſage. One time it was with her to Write to her Brother *John*, he being ſomething wild,

viz.

viz. *Dearly beloved Brother, in the Fear of the Lord do I exhort thee, to Leave off Liteneſs and Vanity, and then to wait upon the Lord, and deſire of him to forgive thee that which is paſt*, &c. In the fore end of her Sickneſs, one night ſhe being in Bed, and I and her dear Mother alſo in the ſame Room, the Power of the Lord ran through her, and ſhe being very much troubled with a great Hoarſneſs all the time of her Sickneſs, in ſo much that one could hardly hear her ſpeak, but at that time with a very clear voice ſhe broke forth in Praiſing and Magnifying the Lord with a very ſweet Harmony, and ſaid, *Bleſſed and Praiſed be the Lord, for he is gathering a People to himſelf to do his Will, Praiſes to his moſt holy Name for ever*, and kept Praiſing and Magnifying the Lord a pretty time, but her Words were ſomething lower, ſo that we could not hear them all. This Child did take great delight in Reading *Friends Books*, that is, *Epiſtles to Friends*, and in *William Bayly's Book*, and in the Propheſie of the *Prophet Iſaiah*, about the 51ſt Chapter, where God Calls and Exhorts his People to truſt in him; if ſhe had but a little ſpare time

time she would imploy it in either Read-
ing or Writing; she had an excellent Gift
in Reading, which greatly comforted and
refreshed most that heard her, for some-
times it would take such impression upon
the tender-hearted, that Tears would
trickle down their Cheeks, for she did read
with the Spirit and with the Understand-
ing also; many things more I might men-
tion as to her sober behaviour to all she
was concerned with, her comliness in her
Apparel, a needless thing I never did see her
wear, she hath left a good savour behind
her, and is gone to her everlasting Rest
with the Lord for evermore, for she did
truly *Remember her Creator in the days of her*
youth. She departed this Life the 21st day
of the 11th Month, 1680. in the 17th year
of her age, at *Partney-Milne* in *Lincoln-shire*.
I Buried her decently the 23d day follow-
ing, at *Tumby-Wood-side*, in the parish of
Kirkby upon the *Baine* in *Friends Burying-*
place; so desiring not to be tedious, and hav-
ing somewhat eased my Spirit, I desire to
rest in peace with the Lord, and in Chari-
ty with all Men. Written in *Partney*, By
Thomas Brown the Elder.

THE END.